

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 03867 231443Z  
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05  
ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /036 W  
-----017683 231446Z /41

P R 222220Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8496  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC/DCAA/TS-F  
SECDEF WASHDC/ASD-ISA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS/SCSA

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EFIN SNAR ETRD CS  
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR FY-77 FMS CREDIT

REF: A. SAN JOSE 3780, B. SAN JOSE 3799

1. EMBASSY SUBMITS FOLLOWING SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RE STATE OF COSTA RICAN COASTAL PATROL CAPABILITIES AND PROJECTED USE OF NEW BOATS TO SUPPORT RECOMMENDATION THAT \$5 MILLION IN FMS CREDITS BE GRANTED GOCR FOR PURCHASE OF FIVE PATROL BOATS.

2. CURRENT CAPABILITY. COSTA RICA CURRENTLY HAS A TOTAL OF TWO COASTAL CRAFT, BOTH ON THE PACIFIC SIDE, AND BOTH INACTIVE. ONE IS A 65 FOOT WOODEN HULLED PICKET BOAT, PURCHASED THROUGH THE EXCESS PROPERTY PROGRAM TWO YEARS AGO. IT HAS A 50 CAL MACHINE GUN MOUNT, AND IS IN FAIR CONDITION, ACCORDING TO ODC. IT HAS BEEN UNDER REPAIR FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS. THE OTHER, A 40 FOOT METAL HULLED PICKET BOAT, IS IN VERY BAD CONDITION. IT HAS BEEN UNDER REPAIR FOR THE PAST THREE MONTHS AND IS EXPECTED TO BE DOWN INDEFINITELY. NEITHER BOAT HAS ANY ELECTRONIC CAPABILITY EXCEPT FOR RADIOS.

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3. ON THE ATLANTIC SIDE, THERE HAS BEEN NO PATROL CAPABILITY FOR THE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS. TWO YEARS AGO GOCR PURCHASED A NON-OPERATIONAL PATROL CRAFT THROUGH THE EXCESS PROPERTY PROGRAM. IT IS STILL NOT OPERATING (AND IT IS DOUBTFUL, IN VIEW OF ODC, THAT IT EVER WILL).

4. PROJECTED USE. AS INDICATED REFTELS, GOCR NEED FOR PATROL CRAFT

IS FOR NORMAL COAST GUARD TYPE ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING COMBATTING CONTRABAND AND DRUG TRAFFICKING BY SEA, BOTH OF WHICH HAVE GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY IN RECENT YEARS. ALSO, GOCR STRONGLY FEELS NEED TO DEVELOP SEARCH AND RESCUE CAPABILITY (FOR WHICH IT IS NOW ALMOST ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON USG), AND A DISASTER RELIEF READINESS FOR COASTAL AREAS. IN ADDITION, OF COURSE, GOCR WANTS TO BE ABLE TO PATROL ITS NATIONAL COASTAL LIMITS, A CAPABILITY WHICH ITS CENTRAL AMERICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PANAMANIAN NEIGHBORS ALL HAVE, EXCEPT FOR NICARAGUAN FISHERMEN OPERATING FLAGRANTLY IN COSTA RICAN WATERS, COSTA RICAN PATROL BOATS HAVE APPREHENDED ALMOST NO ONE IN PAST FEW YEARS FOR ANYTHING. FINALLY, GOCR WANTS TO ATTEMPT TO ENFORCE INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION MEASURES IN ITS COASTAL SEAS, SOMETHING IT HAS NEVER DONE BECAUSE IT LACKS THE BOATS.

5. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, GOCR PURCHASES VERY LITTLE FROM US THROUGH FMS FACILITY AND ALL PURCHASES IN RECENT YEARS HAVE BEEN FMS CASH SALES RATHER THAN CREDIT SALES. IN THIS INSTANCE, WHERE GOCR NEEDS FMS CREDITS IN ORDER TO PURCHASE BADLY-NEEDED EQUIPMENT THAT BY COSTA RICAN STANDARDS IS VERY HIGH-COST, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT THAT USG RESPOND FAVORABLY.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Reference:** 77 SAN JOSE 3780, 77 SAN JOSE 3799  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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